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News Release

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Minnesota Man Receives Maximum Sentence for Child Pornography Crimes

Minneapolis - A Cass County, Minnesota, man was sentenced earlier today in federal court in Duluth for producing child pornography. United States District Court Judge Richard H. Kyle imposed the statutory maximum sentence of 360 months in prison on Todd Edward Hammond, age 39, of Federal Dam, Minnesota. Hammond had pled guilty to that crime in February, 2007.

According to court documents in this case, Hammond enticed a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct between May of 2004 and July of 2006 for the purpose of producing child pornography. Moreover, Hammond admitted using his computer to receive and store video files containing child pornography and then sharing those images with others via the Internet. In July of 2006, Hammond also was found in possession of over ninety computer video files that contained images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

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The investigation in this case began when an accused child molester in Gainesville, Florida, pointed out Hammond as one of several men involved in a group that shared child pornography over the Internet. Florida investigators relayed that information to Minnesota law enforcement, who then initiated their own investigation.

This investigation was conducted locally by the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, a law enforcement body comprised of investigators from around the state, as well as the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, the Cass County Sheriff's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tracy T. Braun.

The federal case against Hammond is the result of the continued hard work and cooperation of law enforcement personnel here and across the country committed to protecting children from sexual exploitation over the Internet. The case is part of Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

In a separate case, Anoka County officials filed state charges against Hammond in the summer of 2006 for allegedly having sex with a minor. Those charges are still pending.

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